

NO TRIFLING WITH CUBA:

PLATT AMENDMENT MUST BE INCORPORATED IN THE CONSTITUTION.

After That American Control Will Not Cease Until a Stable and Satisfactory Government Has Been Installed by the Cubans.

WASHINGTON, June 1.—It can be stated on the best official authority that the United States Government will continue to control the affairs of Cuba until the Platt amendment is incorporated in the Cuban Constitution without alteration, either implied or direct. Even after the convention notifies this Government of its unqualified acceptance of the amendment there will be no withdrawal of American control of the island until a stable and satisfactory Government is installed by the Cubans themselves. The President and his advisers have determined to obey in every particular the law of Congress which makes it mandatory upon him to accept nothing short of the Platt amendment's terms in defining the relations which shall exist between Cuba and the United States. It is the opinion of the Administration that there has been already too much trifling with this subject by the Cuban Constitutional Convention, and it is proposed to make it perfectly plain that the Platt amendment must be accepted without qualification before the United States will take any step looking to the absolute independence of the island. While this feeling exists it is not the purpose of the Administration to enter into negotiations with the convention nor will it discuss the matter further.

An authoritative statement was made to THE SUN reporter to-day to the effect that this Government will make no formal statement to the Cuban Convention in regard to the rejection of its action in adopting a plan of relations. This does not mean that the convention will not be officially informed of the Administration's views of the matter, but merely that no formal document will be laid before the convention from the President. This conclusion was reached at the conference between the President and Secretary Root this afternoon.

The paper drawn last night by Secretary Root was mailed to Gen. Wood this morning, and will form the basis of a statement to the convention by Gen. Wood. The substance of this paper was called to him this morning, but without special instructions. The statement was prepared by a personal letter giving detailed instructions and accompanied by a formal letter of about 2,000 words setting forth the official views of the Administration on the question of the Platt amendment. The letter was signed by Secretary Root and a series of interpretations which do not meet with the approval of the United States Government.

It is also learned that the action of the Cabinet yesterday merely endorsed the views held by Secretary Root as already expressed to Gen. Wood by cable. Immediately on the receipt from Gen. Wood of the substance of the Secretary's plan of relations the Secretary of War said that it would not meet with the approval of the President and so informed Gen. Wood last Monday by letter and cable. As soon as the President received the Secretary's plan of relations he said before him that correspondence with Gen. Wood, and this was laid before the Cabinet at its meeting yesterday, with the result that it unanimously approved of Secretary Root's views. A more detailed and complete letter to Gen. Wood for his guidance dealing further with the convention. The reason why the President cannot lay before the convention any formal statement is that nothing has been received by him from the convention to which to make any response.

It is, therefore, necessary to carry on communication through Gen. Wood, who will inform the convention of the views held by the President on the convention's action in misinterpreting the Platt amendment. In doing this Gen. Wood will state the convention's statement based on that prepared by Secretary Root. It will not be presented, however, as a statement, but merely as a statement by Gen. Wood of the President's views on the subject. It is certain that Gen. Wood will follow Secretary Root's letter in every particular. This points out clearly and definitely why the Secretary's letter was so carefully guarded and why the action of the convention is so important.

Secretary Root proceeds to discuss the reasons for arriving at this conclusion and calls attention to the Cuban interpretation of the amendment. He shows that in this instance the meaning of the clause is changed, while it is difficult to understand, the interpretation placed on it by the Secretary is clearly indicated strongly to the convention that the Platt amendment must stand by itself, as this Government will not agree to any amendments or additions to it.

The latter features of the Platt amendment and their interpretations by the Cubans discussed by Secretary Root relate to the question of intervention and coaling stations. In regard to intervention, the Secretary said that the Platt amendment clause is altered by the interpretation, and it is indicated that the interpretation is not satisfactory.

A conference has been held by Gen. Wood for information as to when the convention will convene, and a long confidential letter has been written to him by Secretary Root in which he freely discusses the whole subject of the Cuban interpretation of the amendment. Secretary Root is taking upon the Platt amendment a series of interpretation clauses. Secretary Root remarks that his explanations to the commission were intended for their information and were not with any idea that they were to form the basis for the adoption of clauses of interpretation. Secretary Root also holds that his explanations were given with the understanding that they were decided to hold it from the public eye and not to be altered by the President or any one else.

This is one of the points upon which the plan of relations is rejected, and Gen. Wood's attention is called to the fact that the Secretary's letter clearly stated to the commission that neither he nor the President had any authority to change the Platt amendment, the Cuban convention in its interpretation made alterations in the meaning of the amendment which the President had no authority to make and is prohibited from accepting for the reason that they are not in accord with the amendment as passed by Congress.

It was announced at the War Department this morning that the letter to Gen. Wood would be made public to-day or to-morrow, but it has finally been decided to hold it from the public until Gen. Wood has laid before the convention a statement of the position of this Government. Even then it is very probable that it will not be made public here before the convention convenes.

CUBANS DISCUSS THE REJECTION.

Havana Press Comment Varied—Nationalists Claim Victory in City Election.

HAVANA, June 1.—The action of the United States in refusing to accept the interpretation of the Platt amendment continues to be much discussed.

The discussion says the first thing that strikes them is the haste with which the American Administration is proceeding, as it has not even received the official resolution of the convention. The discussion

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Mrs. Catt's idea of the aim of the association is to secure results and her plans are aggressive. This desire for changes that shall extend beyond the choice of a new Secretary recalls the prophecy of Lucy Stone, who said of Mrs. Catt, then a very young woman:

"She is destined to be President of the association some day, and when she takes up the leadership she will revolutionize the present methods of work."

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CLEVELAND'S SMALLPOX CASES.

Health Authorities of Lake Cities Said to Be Contemplating Drastic Action.

TOLEDO, June 1.—A sensation has been sprung in Ohio over a public statement by the health Commissioner of Buffalo. He says there was recently a secret meeting of the health authorities of five of the chief cities on the lakes, generally understood to be Toledo, Chicago, Toronto, Buffalo and Detroit, at Cleveland, when a demand for better smallpox sanitation in Cleveland was made.

Cleveland has had this year nearly one hundred cases of smallpox, and the health show is alarmed. It is suggested that a strict quarantine be demanded at Cleveland and that for a time no trains be permitted to stop and land or take on passengers there and that the same precautions be arranged with regard to the steamboats.

The authorities of Cleveland are said to be very much wrought up over the possibility of a general demand for such action.

WHERE IS MARCEL LAURANT?

Bright Boy Who Speaks Three Languages Runs Away From Home.

Marcel Laurant, only son of Max K. Laurant, ran away from his home, 155 Washington avenue in the Bronx, two weeks ago yesterday. Marcel is 15 years old. His father is chief foreign correspondent for the banking house of Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co. of 25 Broad street.

When Mr. Laurant left home on the morning of May 15 he told his son certain things he wanted him to do during the day. When the father returned in the afternoon he found that Marcel had not done one of the things he was told to do. Thereupon Mr. Laurant said that the boy should be immediately put to bed. Marcel heard the decree and waited for no amendments or additions to it. He saw that the door leading from the dining room to the back yard was open. Through it he went like a shot, vaulted over the garden fence and disappeared into the night.

He didn't return for dinner and his mother was so worried and his father so angry that they didn't go to bed. After dinner, his father went to the corner of Third avenue and 16th street on the corner he caught sight of Marcel on the opposite side of the avenue, running north. Mr. Laurant gave chase. The boy dodged into a stable yard and sprang down Washington avenue.

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DR. AMENT TALKS ON LOOT.

MAKES SOME ADMISSIONS AND AGAIN DEFENDS HIMSELF.

Quoted as Saying That Last Summer Was Not a Time for "Ethereal Virtue"—Says Wotemaker is Standing by Him—Would Like to See Mark Twain—After Webb Hayes.

DETROIT, Mich., June 1.—The Rev. Dr. W. S. Ament of the American Board was interviewed here last night. This question was asked of him:

"Did the missionaries lose?"

"No, positively no," said the doctor. "The missionaries have been slandered for twenty years to my knowledge, and probably always will be. There is little use in denying these lies, but nevertheless I am fighting the slanderers with all my strength and am in the right trim for it. Furthermore, we have a man who will put up the money to fight the people who persist in these false reports, and that man is the merchant prince, John Wotemaker of Philadelphia and New York. He is a Presbyterian and to my knowledge has offered money for this purpose."

"I feel very much like bringing an action against Mark Twain and all the publishers who printed his misrepresentation of facts. Webb C. Hayes is another man I am after. I am going to Trenton, Ohio, to find him. In the purchase of Chinese goods he made from the missionaries he beat us down to the last dollar, then talked scandalously about us."

But missionaries in Pekin have shown articles of great value that were admittedly lost.

"Where the missionaries took and bought things," said Dr. Ament, "I believe it was done with the best of motives. Every one predicted a famine when we got out of the siege, and it behooved us to make money. There was a little money and some more. There can be excused if we converted the goods we found in the places we took possession of into cash."

"We thought at the time starvation was staring us in the face for the winter, and we prepared for the support of our native Christians."

"But the army stood ready to supply you free if need be, or at least to supply you with food from the commissary department? Supplies were coming in rapidly."

"We did not know that in the beginning," said the doctor. "If we had seen this it would have put a different light on things, no doubt."

"Yes, but you kept on selling goods even up to November, didn't you?"

"No, my public sales were over in September."

The doctor then wanted to talk as to the meaning of the word "loot." He objected to the word being used in connection with the missionaries.

"I don't know," said the doctor, "but I don't think you should take anything from any person or person except what you found in the palace of the